

Children, Youth, and Families Signature Research Area Group Mini-conference on
Effects of the Recession on Children and Families

Participant Biographies

Session 1

SHELDON DANZIGER is the Henry J. Meyer Distinguished University Professor of Public Policy, Director of the National Poverty Center, and Director of the Ford Foundation Program on Poverty and Public Policy at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a 2008 John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Fellow and the 2010 Galbraith Fellow of the American Academy of Political and Social Science. He has been a visiting scholar at the Russell Sage Foundation and at the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center and a member of the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Transitions to Adulthood. He received his bachelor's degree from Columbia University and his Ph.D. in Economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Danziger is the co-author of *America Unequal* (1995) and *Detroit Divided* (2000) and co-editor of numerous journal articles and edited volumes, including *Understanding Poverty* (2001), *Working and Poor: How Economic and Public Policy Changes are Affecting Low-Wage Workers* (2006), *The Price of Independence: The Economics of Early Adulthood* (2007) and *Changing Poverty, Changing Policies* (2009). He is currently studying the effects of the "great recession" and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act on workers and families.

IRWIN GARFINKEL is the Mitchell I. Ginsberg Professor of Contemporary Urban Problems and co-director of the Columbia Population Research Center. A social worker and an economist by training, he has authored or co-authored over 180 scientific articles and twelve books on poverty, income transfers, program evaluation, single parent families and child support, and the welfare state. His research on child support influenced legislation in Wisconsin and other American states, the U.S. Congress, Great Britain, Australia, and Sweden. He is currently the co-principal investigator of the Fragile Families and Child Well being Study. His most recent book is *Wealth and Welfare States: Is America a Laggard or Leader?*

Session 2

NATASHA PILKAUSKAS is a Ph.D. student in Social Policy Analysis at Columbia University's School of Social Work. Her research interests include urban poverty, family demography and child and family policy. She has been working with the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing study to look at family structure and parenting as well as material hardship and child outcomes. She has a Masters in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and worked for a few years as a policy analyst at RTI International doing research on various social policy programs.

DANIEL SCHNEIDER is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Sociology, an affiliate of the Office of Population Research, and a fellow in the Multidisciplinary Program in Sociology and Social Policy at Princeton University. His research focuses on family demography, economic sociology, gender, and inequality.

JANET CURRIE is the Sami Mnaymneh Professor of Economics at Columbia University and Director of the Program on Families and Children at the National Bureau of Economic Research. She was elected Vice President of the American Economics Association in 2010. She has served on

several National Academy of Sciences panels including the Committee on Population and has also served as a member of the advisory board of the National Children's Study and as a consultant for the National Health Interview Survey and the National Longitudinal Surveys. She is a Fellow of the Society of Labor Economists, an affiliate of the University of Michigan's National Poverty Center, and an affiliate of IZA in Bonn. She is on the editorial board of the Quarterly Journal of Economics and has served several other journals in an editorial capacity including the Journal of Health Economics, the Journal of Labor Economics, and the Journal of Public Economics.

Her research focuses on the health and well-being of children. She has written about early intervention programs, programs to expand health insurance and improve health care, public housing, and food and nutrition programs. Much of this research is summarized in "The Invisible Safety Net: Protecting the Nation's Poor Children and Families", Princeton University Press, which has just been released in paper back. Her current research focuses on socioeconomic differences in child health, and on environmental threats to children's health from sources such as toxic pollutants.

Session 3

JEANNE BROOKS-GUNN, Ph.D. is the Virginia and Leonard Marx Professor of Child Development and Education at Teachers College and the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University and she directs the National Center for Children and Families (www.policyforchildren.org). She is interested in factors that contribute to both positive and negative outcomes across childhood, adolescence, and adulthood, with a particular focus on key social and biological transitions over the life course. She designs and evaluates intervention programs for children and parents (Early Head Start, Infant Health and Development Program, Head Start Quality Program). Other large-scale longitudinal studies include the Fragile Families and Child Well-being Study and the Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods (co-PI of both). She is the author of 4 books and more than 350 publications. She has been elected into the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies and she has received life-time achievement awards from the Society for Research in Child Development, American Academy of Political and Social Science, the American Psychological Society, American Psychological Association and Society for Research on Adolescence.

Working Lunch

JANE WALDFOGEL is a professor of social work and public affairs at Columbia University School of Social Work and a visiting professor at the Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion at the London School of Economics. During the 2008-09 academic year, she was the Marion Cabot Putnam Memorial Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University where she was writing a book about Britain's war on poverty. Waldfogel received her Ph.D. in public policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. She has written extensively on the impact of public policies on child and family well-being. Her books include Britain's War on Poverty (Russell Sage Foundation, 2010), Steady gains and stalled progress: Inequality and the Black-White test score gap (Russell Sage Foundation, 2008), What children need (Harvard University Press, 2006), Securing the future: Investing in children from birth to college (Russell Sage Foundation, 2000), and The future of child protection: How to break the cycle of abuse and neglect (Harvard University Press, 1998). Her current research includes studies related to work-family policies, poverty, social mobility, and income-related gaps in school readiness.